To the Rector Church Wardens & Vestrymen of Christ Church & Saint Peter's —

Gentlemen

I am inform'd that there has been entered on your Minutes a Letter from his Excellency the Governor of this Commonwealth setting forth that Information had been given to him, of my having, from Disaffection to the Independency of the United States, peremptorily refused to suffer the Bells to be rung on the 4 July last, & further that the Governor in an Interview with a Committee of your Body, repeated the above with the Addition that I am an Englishman and had been a Tory during the Revolution. —

While I am sensible of the Respect due to the Eminence of the Governors Station, I hope it will not be unbecoming a Person in my Sphere, to have a Regard to his own Character; and I ask of the Vestry as an Act of Justice to a Man who has been thirty six years their Head ringer, that they will enter on their Minutes the following Statement.

In regard to the Information to the Governor that I am an Englishman; it is not to give Offence to any Man on Account of Country, but from a Natural Partiality to the place of my Nativity when I sett forth that I was born in this City as may be made appear from your Register of Baptisms. — My Father also was a Native of this Country, and was long known to some of you, as a respectable Member of your Churches. —

In regard to it's being said that I was a Tory during the Revolution, I beg leave to mention, that I was in the Artillery Department of the Militia, from the begining of the Revolution

War, untill ſome Months after the declaration of Independence: when I was obliged to leave that Body, because of an utter Inability for the Performance of Militia Duty; the Effect of a nervous Fever on my Limbs, under which Inability I have continued ever since, While I was under the worst Effects of that nervous Fever on my Limbs, the Declaration of Independence was made, on the 4th of July 1776; And on that Day, altho' then not capable of the Exercise of ringing, yet desirous of being in my place during the Public Joy, I procured to be borne into the Bell Room in the Arms of John Williams and John Field; of whom the latter is deceased and the former now lives in Trenton. — In the Summer of the year 1777 I took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States, within the Time then limited by Law; and I have never done or said any Thing contrary to the Tenor of the said Oath. —

On the approach of the British Army to the City in the said Year I retired into Jersey with my Family and did not return until after the Evacuation. — I have been ever since (as I had always been before) a peaceable Citizen, altho' in Consequence of the aforesaid Infirmity, not as active one except in the Line of my Calling. —

In regard to the Charge of Disaffection, as said to be manifested on the 4 July I leave to the Vestry as I know they have the Means and am told they have taken the Measures to justify me on that Point; only observing how improbable it is, that after ringing on ſo many Anniversaries of Independence I ſhould refuse from the Motive which has been attributed to me. —

I am sensible of the kindneſs of the Vestry, in admitting on my Word, the Declaration made in their presence, that I was ready and willing to have complied with their requisition on the 4th of July

last, and that
as this has been
the Ringers to

last, and that I urged the ringers to a Compliance: Neverthelеſs as this has been since questioned, I now present a Certificate of the Ringers to the same Effect. —

The Rector Ch, Wardens
& Vestry-men of the United
Episcopal Churches
Philad^a

Joseph Dolby
July 180

Joseph Dolby
July 1807

To ye Rector, Church-Wardens & Vestrymen of Christ-Church & St Peters.

Gentlemen,

I am informed, that there has been entered on your Minutes a Letter from his Excellency the Governor of this Common-wealth, setting forth, that Information had been given to him, of my having, from Disaffection to the Independency of the United States, peremptorily refused to suffer ye Bells to be rung on the ~~late~~ ~~An~~ 4th of July last; & further, that the Governor, in an Interview with a Committee of your Body, repeated the above, ~~that~~ & with the Addition, that I am an Englishman & had been a Tory during the Revolution.

While I am sensible of the Respect due to the Eminence of the Governor's Station, I hope it will not be unbecoming a Person in my ~~humble~~ Sphere, to have ~~equal~~ a Regard to his own Character; & I ask of the Vestry, as an Act of Justice to a Man who has been 36 Years their Head ~~Bell~~-ringer; that they will enter on their Minutes

the following. ~~[illegible]~~ Statement.

In regard to the Information ~~given~~ to the Governor that I am an Englishman; it is not to give Offence to any Man on Account of Country, but from a natural Partiality to the Place of my Nativity, when I set forth, that I was born in this City; as may be made ~~[illegible]~~ appear from your Register of Baptisms. My Father also was a Native of this Country; & was long known to some of you, as a respectable Member of your Churches.

In regard to it's being said that I was a Tory during the Revolution, I beg Leave to mention, that I was in the Artillery Department of the Militia, from the Beginning of the Revolutionary War, until some Months after the Declaration of Independence, when I was obliged to leave that Body, ~~unable~~ because of an utter Inability ~~for~~ of Performance of Militia Duty; the Effect of a nervous Fever on my Limbs; Under which Inability I have continued ever since. While I was under the worst Effects of

that nervous Fever
-tion of Independence
July 1776: And on th
altho' then not capable ~~incompe~~
Exercise of singing,
in my Place during ~~at~~ the
Joy, I procured to be
in the Arms of John
Field; of whom the
former ~~latter~~ now lives in
Time, I have been
in consequence of the
-mity, not an acco
my Calling ~~location~~: And
that no one will,
no one in Truth
performed any Act or uttered any Sentim
Independency of my

In regard to the
is said to be manifeste
leave to the Vestry,
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to justify me on the
how improbable it i

...ation ~~given~~ to
...English Man;
...any Man on
...a natural Par-
...Nativity, when
... in this City;
...from your Ele-
...ther also was
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...said that I con-
... I beg Leave to
...Artillery De-
...from the Begin-
...War, untill some
...ion of Independence,
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...mbs; Under which
...ed ever since.
...ast Effects of

that nervous Fever on my Limbs, the Decla-
-tion of Independence was made, on ye 4th of
July 1776. And on that ~~memorable~~ Day,
altho' then ~~incompetent~~ not capable of to the ~~business~~
Exercise of ringing, yet desirous of being
in my Place ~~at~~ during that ~~Exhibition~~ of publick
Joy, I procured to be borne into ye Bell-com
in the Arms of John Williams & John
Field; of whom the ~~former~~ latter is deceased & ye
~~latter~~ former now lives in Trenton. In ye Summer of ? Since that
Time, I have been a peaceable, altho',
in consequence of the aforesaid ~~Lame~~ Infir-
-mity, not an active Citizen, except in
my ~~Location~~ Calling: And I ~~though~~ trust ~~the Confidence~~,
that no one will, as I am sure ~~that~~
no one in Truth can ~~attest~~ affirm, that I ever
performed any Act or uttered any Sentiment, ~~hostile~~ against to the
Independency of my Country.

In regard to the Charge of Disaffection,
as said to be manifested on the 4th of July, ~~that~~ I
leave to the Vestry, as I know they have the
Means & am told they have taken the Measures,
to justify me on that Point; only observing,
how improbable it is, that after ringing

ation ~~given~~ to
English Man;
any Man on
a natural Dar-
Nativity, when
in this City;
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that nervous Fever on my Limbs, the Decla-
-tion of Independence was made, on ye 4th of
July 1776. And on that ~~memorable~~ Day,
altho' then not capable of ~~incompetent~~ to the ~~business~~
Exercise of ringing, yet, desirous of being
in my Place during ~~at~~ that ~~Exhibition~~ of public
Joy, I procured to be borne into ye Bell-com

In the Summer of ye Year 1777, I took
the Oath of Allegiance to the United
States, within the Time then limited
by Law; and I have never done or said
any Thing contrary to the Tenor of
the said Oath. On ye Approach of ye British Army to ye City in ye said Year I retired into Jersey ~~said~~ with my Family & did not return untill after the Evacuation. ~~I have ...~~ I have been ever
since (as I had always been before)
a peaceable Citizen, altho, ~~..~~ in con-
-sequence of ye aforesaid Infirmity,
not an active one except in ye Line of
my Calling.

to ... my me on that Point, only observing,
how improbable it is, that after confining

on so many Anniversaries of Independence, I should now refuse, from ye Motive which has been attributed to me.

I am sensible of the kindness of the Vestry, in admitting on my Word, the Declaration made in their Presence, that I was ready & willing to have complied with their Requisition on the 4th of July last; & that I urged the Ringers to a Compliance. Nevertheless as this has been since ~~denied~~ questioned, I now present a Certificate of the Ringers to ye same Effect.

I am, Gentlemen, very respectfully,
Your Head- ~~Bell~~ ringer & very humble
Servant -

Bishop White
to the
Vestries U. C. Chs.

1801

Dr Sir

Mr John Martin Baker, an English Gentleman who resides a few miles out of town, has lost his son, an infant of 13 months, and has applied to me to obtain an order for his admission into Christ-Church burial ground. If you will be pleased to give it to the bearer, he will carry it to Mr Dolby-

I am Sir
Yr mo. hble Servt
Jas. Abercrombie

Tuesday
Augt 11th

Mrs Abercrombie

Mr Thos Cumpston

John Martin Baker, son
of John Martin, and Harri[et]
D. Baker - Born 19th June
1800 - Baptized by me 31st July
1801 -
Mr Baker being a stranger is un[-]
acquainted with our regulations
but will cheerfully pay

all charges when the funerme
is over J. Ro---